

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9845

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 0543

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, SP, EC

SUBJECT: HINT OF SPANISH-ISRAELI TIES

REF: MADRID 0356 (NOTAL)

1. FONMIN AREILZA'S REMARK THAT AT AN "OPPORTUNE MOMENT" SPAIN WOULD SEEK THE PROPER CHANNEL FOR RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL HAS BEEN WELCOMED HERE. FONMIN ALLON SAID THAT ISRAEL WOULD "REACT FAVORABLY" TO ANY APPROACH ON THE SUBJECT OF ESTABLISHING RELATIONS WITH SPAIN. ASKED ABOUT SPAIN'S STAND ON THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION, ALLON REPLIED: "ALL SOVEREIGN STATES ARE PERFECTLY ENTITLED TO THEIR VIEWS ON ANY WORLD PROBLEM. WHEN FULL CONTACTS ARE ESTABLISHED IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO HAVE FRUITFUL EXCHANGES AND CONSULTATIONS ON THESE PROBLEMS."

2. PRESS REPORTS OF ALLON'S COMMENT WERE JUXTAPOSED WITH A STATEMENT BY EGYPTIAN FONMIN FAHMY THAT HE HAD "REASON TO BELIEVE" THAT SPAIN WOULD MAINTAIN ITS PRESENT POLICY OF WITHHOLDING RECOGNITION FROM ISRAEL. HE WAS REPORTED AS HAVING TOLD THE EGYPTIAN PARLIAMENT THAT HIGH-LEVEL CONTACTS HAD ALREADY TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN

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CAIRO AND MADRID ON THIS BASIS: "I CAN ASSURE THE

HOUSE THAT SPAIN WILL NOT CHANGE ITS PRESENT POLICY."

3. WHEN I ASKED MFA DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL EVRON JAN. 21 ABOUT THESE REPORTS, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN PLEASANTLY SURPRISED TO LEARN WHAT AREILZA HAD SAID IN HIS TV DISCUSSION AND HAD NOT EXPECTED HIM TO GO THAT FAR. OF COURSE, EVRON NOTED, IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW THIS INTENTION WILL BE TRANSLATED INTO ACTION; FOR ITS PART, ISRAEL WOULD BE WILLING TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION AT ANY TIME. HE SPECULATED THAT THE "OPPORTUNE MOMENT" MIGHT BE AFTER THE SPANISH ARE FINALLY RID OF THE SPANISH SAHARA, FOR THEN THEY WOULD NOT NEED THE ARABS SO MUCH.

4. EVRON SAID THEY WERE DISAPPOINTED BY FAHMY'S "OUTBURST" WHICH SEEMS TO VIOLATE THE SPIRIT OF THE INTERIM AGREEMENT.
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